

Communities of Opportunity Interim Governance Group

March 18, 2016 Draft Meeting Notes

1:00-4:00pm

Location: Chinook Building's Executive Conference Room (401 5th Ave, Seattle 98104)

Members Present:

Scarlett Aldebot-Green, Michael Brown, David Fleming (conference phone), Ubax Gardheere, Patty Hayes, Betsy Jones, Paola Maranan, Gordon McHenry, Jeff Natter, John Page, Sili Savusa, Adam Taylor, Tony To

Staff Present: Nadine Chan, Bao-Tram Do, Alice Ito, Cheryl Markham, Aaron Robertson, Kirsten Wysen

Guests:

Van Badzik (Facilitator)

Marguerite Ro, Public Health Seattle-King County

Welcome and Introductions

- Michael Brown welcomed Communities of Opportunity (COO) Interim Governance Group (IGG) members, staff, and guests to the COO IGG meeting at the King County building.
- Michael Brown introduced the new COO IGG members and community representatives: John Page and Ubax Gardheere.
- COO IGG monthly meetings are now located in downtown Seattle, alternating between the offices of King County and Seattle Foundation.
- COO IGG members and staff introduced themselves.

Meeting Facilitation

Van Badzik, meeting facilitator, reviewed the following group agreements below:

- Respect the speaker
- All ideas are welcome
- Freedom to disagree
- Start and end on time
- Be present
- Confidentially
- Step up, step back
- Speak from the I

Van Badzik reviewed the meeting goals as outlined by the agenda:

- Approve policy/systems change proposals
- Approve governance structure
- Approve approach to Best Start for Kids (BSK) Communities of Opportunity Implementation Plan
- Prepare for March 22 to 23 Living Cities Learning Community

Policy and Systems Change Grants Context, Purpose, Process, and Roles

- Michael Brown provided context and described the purpose of COO's policy and systems change grants outlined in Aaron Robertson's email on Policy and Systems Change pre-read for meeting.
- To date, COO has had two funding components, (1) place-based grants and (2) policy and systems change grants, that work together to move the needle on racial and economic equity in the areas of health, housing and economic opportunity and community connection.
- Policy and systems change RFP sought proposals from community-engaged or community-led efforts to transform systems and policies in the intersections between health, housing, and economic opportunity that will decrease and/or prevent continued inequity in low-income communities and communities of color in King County.
- Intent of grant is to support existing efforts that with a catalytic one-time investment can make additional change that will increase equity.
- This was the second round of policy and systems change grants. A review committee of eight from King County staff, Seattle Foundation staff, and community representatives read, scored, conducted site visits, and made tiered funding recommendations to COO IGG. Staff and committee members have an advisory role.
- The role of IGG is to review and decide on funding recommendations.

Process for Decision-Making and Conflict of Interests

- Van presented the governance decision-making process as outlined in the "Communities of Opportunity Governance Group By-Laws" document. Consensus is surveyed using colored cards: green (support), yellow (questions), and red (lack of support). Consensus is considered achieved with two or fewer red cards.
- Conflicts of interest were announced: Ubox Gardheere (Staff at Puget Sound Sage) and Michael Brown (Board member at Futurewise and Yesler Community Collaborative).

Summary of Review Committee Funding Recommendations

- Aaron Robertson shared the review committee funding recommendations, divided into four tiers:
 - Tier 1- Consensus that is strong and fits all criteria
 - Tier 2- Supported by review committee but below tier 1
 - Tier 3- Lingering questions or concerns, but a number of strengths
 - Tier 4- Missing a core aspect of criteria
- Report of policy and systems change recommendations can be found in the "Review Committee Advisory Recommendation" document.
- The Review Committee worked to put forth funding recommendations that balanced issue areas (health, housing and economic opportunity), populations, ethnic communities, geographies, size of organizations (grassroots, CBOs, intermediaries).
- The Review Committee recommends funding all of Tier 1 (\$450k if all fully funded) and top of Tier 2 (another \$186k if all fully funded).
- Organizations in Tier 1 were strong fit for the RFP criteria. For organizations in Tier 2, the review committee had more challenges with balancing policy reach and community engaged/led efforts.
- Differences in opinions among Review Committee members were noted. There was not always agreement on scale and depth of community engagement.

Community Engaged/Community-Led Efforts in Policy and Systems Change

- Aaron informed IGG that there were challenges in considering the policy reach/impact of organizations with the desire to fund community engaged/led efforts.
- How does COO IGG weigh the two priorities in making funding decisions?
- What are COO IGG strategies for policy and systems change? What level?
- Are we funding proposals that have the most potential for community impact or testing the hypothesis that funding community-led efforts leads to better policy and systems change?

COO IGG Response to Review Committee Recommendations

- COO IGG members discussed importance of funding groups which have been historically under-resourced and discriminated against. It was noted that such groups may have limited organization capacity but are serving a high-needs population.
- Suggestion made that COO IGG develop a baseline for support, think about future funding in different phases, and consider other funding opportunities (e.g., capacity building, learning community, Best Start for Kids).
- COO IGG members re-affirmed focus on funding specific outcomes and attention to funding priorities and criteria designed to lead to such outcomes.
- Concern raised that COO IGG must ensure funding is inclusive and equitable. COO should fund existing work, not new work from larger nonprofits that have more capacity to create new programs and “scale,” which may then appear more competitive for funding in comparison with smaller nonprofits which have a longer track record of having impact by conducting work within their communities. “Equal treatment” of nonprofits in regard to funding criteria will result in larger organizations (with more capacity) receiving higher ratings and more funding. Therefore it is necessary to use Equity criteria to ensure this does not happen.
- Suggestion made that the COO Learning Community is another avenue to support work of groups that are not funded through place-based and policy and systems change; that may be smaller scale yet are important to support and bring into COO.
- Concern raised that Tier 1 funding recommendations were light on organizations working towards COO health outcomes.

Funding Discussion

- COO IGG members expressed the desire to rely on the recommendations of the Review Committee who read the proposals, went on site visits, and have in-depth understanding of proposed projects.
- COO IGG members expressed the desire to make timely decisions to fund organizations that have strong alignment with RFP criteria so that work is not delayed.
- COO IGG members determined that they would make decisions on which groups to fund, and requested that COO staff calculate and make recommendations on dollar amounts.

Discussion of specific proposals and applicant organizations:

Funding Decisions

Due to time constraints, COO IGG did not review the remainder of the proposals and requested that COO staff present more information detailing amount recommendations for approved grants and pros/cons and funding scenarios for remaining proposals. Funded proposal decisions will be announced at the end of April by Seattle Foundation.

Discuss and reach consensus on approach to Best Starts for Kids (BSK) COO Implementation Plan

- COO staff presented the “Communities of Opportunities BSK Levy Fund Implementation Plan Overview and Investment Strategies DRAFT” document to COO IGG.
- COO IGG reviewed the following sections of the document: (I) About Communities of Opportunity Element of BSK Levy, (II) Communities of Opportunity Approach, (III) COO/BSK Investment Strategies, COO Accountability – Governance and Guidance, and Management Plan for COO/BSK Levy Funds.
- Guest Marguerite Ro, Public Health Seattle-King County, shared an experience with application of a learning community model; offered key questions for the COO IGG to consider as it refines the Learning Community concept; and facilitated discussion:
 - What does it mean to create a learning community for COO?
 - What does success look like in five years?
 - How to link issues and shared learnings to regional outcomes?
 - Ways to catalyze momentum and bringing people to the tipping point?
 - How to include bottom-up, top down, and all around approaches for policy and systems change?
 - Ways to strengthen opportunities to partner and work cross sector?

Suggestions/recommendations:

- Suggestion: Is the goal to rename the initiative “Opportunities Realized”?
- Create evaluation to track progress, enhance and improve efforts
- A learning community could bring people together to understand systems, financing, and building relationships
- Build capacity and give organizations the tools they need to synthesize the materials, making their work visible, let them be in front of decision-makers

COO IGG members expressed importance of:

- Being thoughtful in how learning community is utilized to spread COO beyond current funding in place-based sites and policy and systems change grantees
- Ensuring place-based sites are not islands, need to connect work
- Affirming that top-down place based approaches don't work
- Proposal made to approve general approach of BSK COO Implementation Plan
 - COO IGG members: 13 green cards; 1 yellow card
 - Consensus was reached to approve BSK COO Implementation Plan

Discuss and reach consensus on COO Governance Charter and By-Laws, expressing process and structure decisions

- COO staff presented the “Communities of Opportunity Governance Charter” document to COO IGG.
- Proposal made to approve the Strategic Planning Subgroup recommendations highlighted in document.
 - COO IGG: 14 green cards
 - Consensus was reached in approving the Strategic Planning Subgroup recommendations highlighted in document.
- COO staff presented the “Communities of Opportunity Governance Group By-Laws” document.

- COO IGG discussed item 2 outlining governance membership. “At least 50% of the overall membership of the GG]/[A majority of the overall membership of the GG] shall be reflective of community members, grassroots and community-based or population-based organizations...” IGG members commented on:
 - Usefulness of having flexibility in membership composition in the interest of adding individuals that would benefit collective impact table
 - Importance of ensuring a balance so that community representatives feel heard and have decision-making power
 - Importance of being able to identify the policy/systems change outcome that an organization articulates and intends to achieve, when assessing whether and to what extent the organization is led by or driven by the people most impacted
 - Concern about need to have a majority of community representatives, in order to shift power in the governance body
 - Desire for composition of COO IGG to not be restrictive but for power to be balanced in membership
- Facilitator, Van Badzik, offered COO IGG three options for voting on governance membership:
 - Option 1- At least 50%
 - Option 2- A Majority
 - Option 3- Collective impact table, remove numbers/percentages and supplement with description
 - COO IGG members: 13 green cards; 4 yellow cards
 - Consensus was reached on Option 3: to change governance membership language to state governance group should reflect community, CBO, intermediaries, and institutional partners, without any stated percentage.

IGG meetings, upcoming events and deadlines:

- March 22-23, Living Cities Learning Community, Washington, DC
- Apr. 15, 2016; 2-4 p.m.
- May 12-13, 2016; 2-day retreat
- June 17, 2016; 2-4 p.m.
- July 15, 2016; 2-4 p.m.
- Sept 16, 2016; 2-4 p.m.
- Late September TBD, Living Cities Learning Community
- Nov. 18, 2016; 2-4 p.m.

Interim Governance Group Members:

1. Adam Taylor, Global to Local
2. Adrienne Quinn, King County Department of Community and Human Services
3. Betsy Jones, Executive's Office, King County
4. David Fleming, PATH
5. Deanna Dawson, Sound Cities Association
6. Gordon McHenry, Jr, Solid Ground
7. Hilary Franz, Futurewise
8. Jeff Natter, Pacific Hospital PDA
9. John Page, Village of Hope founder
10. Michael Brown, The Seattle Foundation
11. Michael Woo, Got Green founder, volunteer
12. Paola Maranan, The Children's Alliance

13. Patty Hayes, Public Health-Seattle & King County
14. Scarlett Aldebot-Green, King County Council
15. Sili Savusa, White Center CDA
16. Tony To, HomeSight
17. Ubax Gardheere, Puget Sound Sage